

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Ronald A. Bauer

Art Unit: --

Serial No.: --

Examiner: --

Filed: Herewith

For: Distributed Control System for a Whirlpool Tub

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The accompanying form PTO-1449, listing documents to be considered with respect to the subject patent application, is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98. A copy of each document, which is not a U.S. patent, is enclosed along with concise explanation or a translation of each non-English language document.

This paper is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b) and a fee is not required for consideration of these documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 8, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**Complete if Known**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number

Filing Date

Herewith

First Named Inventor

Ronald A. Bauer

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

550299.92787

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,136,496	08/04/1992	Tsuboi	
		US- 5,233,510	08/03/1993	Brueckner, et al.	
		US- 5,406,473	04/11/1995	Yoshikura, et al.	
		US- 5,856,921	01/05/1999	Kim, et al.	
		US- 5,927,398	07/27/1999	Maciulewicz	
		US- 5,984,498	11/16/1999	Lem, et al.	
		US- 5,988,847	11/23/1999	McLaughlin, et al.	
		US- 6,047,219	04/04/2000	Eidson	
		US- 6,339,726	01/15/2002	Miyata, et al.	
		US- 6,405,103	06/11/2002	Ryan, et al.	
		US- 2002/0035404	03/21/2002	Ficco, et al.	
		US- 2002/0069460	06/13/2002	Huffington, et al.	
		US- 2002/0128729	09/12/2002	Blair, et al.	
		US- 2002/0156837	10/24/2002	Batke, et al.	
		US- 2002/0156838	10/24/2002	Batke, et al.	
		US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.